

jobs and a new firearms manufacturing plant in the valley.

Last month, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo declared that hardworking Americans who believe in the Second Amendment's right to bear arms "have no place in the State of New York because that's not who New Yorkers are."

No question, Alabama and the Tennessee Valley owe a debt of gratitude to New York and its Governor Cuomo for helping to inspire Remington to expand in Alabama, but to be fair, New York's hostility to the Second Amendment is only one factor supporting Remington's Alabama expansion. The most important factor is that Alabama is simply a better place to do business.

New York's income tax rates are roughly 60 percent higher than Alabama's, which means Alabama's hardworking citizens keep more of the money they earn.

New York's per capita property tax rates are roughly four times higher than those in Alabama, which means Huntsville metro citizens are twice as likely to own a home as New Yorkers.

New York's business tax burden is the 50th worst in America, while Alabama's is a respectable 21st.

New York residents are 25 percent more likely to live in poverty than Huntsville metro citizens. Out of 50 States, Alabama's long-term solvency is 5th best in America, and its overall fiscal condition is 10th best. New York's financial condition is near the bottom, ranking 45th in each category.

Alabama's financial future is bright. New York increasingly risks being unable to pay for basic services.

New York workers average commuting 78 minutes a day to and from work versus 36 minutes a day for Huntsville metro citizens. Tennessee Valley citizens have more time to spend with their families and the enjoyment of life.

In Alabama, the cost of living is 11 percent below the national average. In New York, the cost of living is 25 percent above the national average. A paycheck in Alabama buys 40 percent more than the same paycheck in New York.

Alabama's right-to-work law means that Alabamians cannot be forced to join a union against their will. Whether it be our right-to-work law or the Second Amendment right to bear arms, Alabama's motto says it all: "We dare defend our rights."

Beating out New York was only half the battle for Remington's plant. Alabama faced stiff competition from 24 other States; yet, in the judgment of Remington, the Tennessee Valley was the best place to live, work, and grow their business.

Why? The Tennessee Valley is highly educated. For example, Huntsville metro has the highest per capita concentration of engineers in America. Huntsville and Madison County are ranked number seven in America by CNN Money as "a great place to live

and find a job," number four in America by the Progressive Policy Institute on the list of America's high-tech hot spots, in the top 10 in America by USA Today as a great place to be inspired by innovation, number three in America by business facilities for aerospace and defense manufacturing, and in the top 10 in America by Family Circle magazine for being a great place to raise a family.

The Tennessee Valley is blessed with a clean environment and four major lakes with world-renowned fishing and water sports, lakes that stretch the entire length of the Tennessee Valley.

Unlike New York and other blue States, in Alabama, envy, greed, and class warfare are not political weapons that justify attacking, taxing, and destroying success. To the contrary, in Alabama, we applaud those who, through hard work, find prosperity and the American Dream.

In Alabama, we are blessed with a great Governor in Robert Bentley. We are blessed with political leaders in Jackson, Marshall, Madison, Limestone, Morgan, Lawrence, Colbert, and Lauderdale Counties who support free enterprise and are cooperative and willing to help each other achieve success, attributes that were critical to Remington's concluding that the Tennessee Valley was the best place in America for Remington to grow and prosper.

Thanks to Remington, Americans will soon be able to exercise their Second Amendment rights by buying and owning firearms made in the great State of Alabama.

Thank you, Remington.

As for all you other businesses in blue States who are tired of being attacked and regulated and taxed into submission and financial loss, come on down. There is a reason why Remington chose Alabama and a reason why we are called "Alabama, the Beautiful."

Try Alabama. I promise you will like it and wonder why you didn't come sooner.

ROBERT NEWTON LOWRY, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a true American hero, Robert Newton Lowry, on his 95th birthday. Bob was born on this day, February 25, 1919, 95 years ago, here in Washington, D.C. He considers Modesto, California, his home.

For high school, Mr. Lowry attended Manlius School, a military school in upstate New York. He graduated at the top of his class and was named an ROTC honor grad. Bob also received a commission to the United States Army, but, unfortunately, he was too young to accept it at the time.

He then was admitted to Princeton University. During his time there, he

received the prestigious New York Herald Book Award. He graduated in 1942 with highest honors, *summa cum laude* and ROTC. These honors earned him another commission, this time to the United States Marine Corps as a second lieutenant. In July 1942, following Officer Candidate School at Quantico, he began artillery training.

In February of 1943, Bob sailed out of San Diego Harbor with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Regiment of the Third Marine Division. He joined the fighting in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, first in Guadalcanal, then the original invasions of Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima.

During his time in Auckland, New Zealand, Bob met his wife, Lieutenant Commander Mary Dudley. They married in May of 1946. Mary died in April 2005, just 2 weeks before their 60th anniversary. Mary always maintained that, as lieutenant commander, she outranked him both in the military service and in their marriage. They are survived by two children, Robert Dudley Lowry and Ann Lowry-Perez, as well as four grandchildren: Sam and Joe Lowry, and Michael and Lowry Champion.

After the battle of Iwo Jima, Bob returned stateside to Norfolk, Virginia, where he commanded a Marine guard company at the naval station. He was soon appointed commanding officer of the Europa, a 100-man Marine detachment sent to Europe to provide security for a seized German luxury liner. Bob was one of the few Marine Corps officers to manage the commissioning of this kind of Navy vessel.

Bob was released from Active Duty in January 1946 and retired from the Marines in 1959 with the rank of major. Following his time in the Marines, he enrolled in law school at the University of Virginia in a postwar accelerated program, graduating in 1948.

Bob then began a lifetime of specialty law practice, primarily in public utility and transportation. His career started first with the Southern Railway and then progressed to his work at a law firm in Washington, D.C.

In 1953, Bob accepted a position with Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison, a renowned law firm in San Francisco, from which he retired in 1989. He has greatly enjoyed the company of the Marine Corps League, the Modesto Detachment, whose members regularly go out of their way to include him, to celebrate his service, as well as they are doing his 95th birthday celebration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Robert Newton Lowry on his unwavering dedication and contributions to this great Nation.

□ 1215

THE DIVINE NINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we observe the final week of Black

History Month, I would like to recognize the Divine Nine historically Black fraternities and sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

For over 100 years, brothers and sisters of the Divine Nine have played an instrumental role in altering the course of American history, and the Divine Nine have served as training grounds for some of our Nation's best and brightest leaders.

The Divine Nine Organizations are:

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, founded in 1986 at Cornell University. Their brotherhood includes the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Congressmen EMANUEL CLEAVER, DANNY DAVIS, CHAKA FATTAH, AL GREEN, GREGORY MEEKS, CHARLES RANGEL, DAVID SCOTT, and BOBBY SCOTT; Ambassador Andrew Jackson Young; the National Urban League president, Marc Morial; legal pioneers Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall; and their honorable grand president, Mark S. Tillman.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, founded in 1908 at Howard University. Their sisterhood proudly boasts Congresswomen SHEILA JACKSON LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, TERRI SEWELL, and FREDERICA WILSON; actress Phylicia Rashad of "The Cosby Show"; author Maya Angelou; civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King; and their honorable president attorney, Carolyn House Stuart.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, founded in 1911 at Indiana University. Among their notable achievers are Microsoft chairman and CEO, John W. Thompson; civil rights leader the Reverend Ralph Abernathy; founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Reverend Delegate Walter Fauntroy; Congressmen SANFORD BISHOP, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, JOHN CONYERS, ALCEE HASTINGS, BENNIE THOMPSON, and HAKEEM JEFFRIES; and Grand Polemarch William "Randy" Bates.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, founded in 1911 at Howard University. They include in their ranks Assistant House Democratic Leader JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina; Congressman HANK JOHNSON of Georgia; NASA Administrator Charles Bolden; comedian Bill Cosby; Dr. Charles Drew, whose medical research in the field of blood transfusions led to the founding of the blood bank; and their honorable grand basileus, Dr. Andrew Ray.

Delta Sigma Theta, founded in 1913 at Howard University. Delta counts as sisters my esteemed colleague and chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Honorable MARCIA L. FUDGE; also Congresswomen YVETTE CLARKE and JOYCE BEATTY; Shirley Chisolm, the first African American woman elected to Congress; former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman; and their honorable president, Paulette C. Walker.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, founded in 1914 at Howard University. Not only are the Sigmas the fraternity of my husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn, they also

include former President of the United States William Jefferson Clinton; Congressman JOHN LEWIS; A. Phillip Randolph, civil rights pioneer and leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Dr. George Washington Carver; and their Honorable President, Jonathan Mason.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, founded in 1920 at Howard University. Notable sisters include author Zora Neale Hurston; jazz great Sarah Vaughan; the late Congresswoman Julia Carson; and their honorable president, Mary Breaux Wright.

Sigma Gamma Rho, my sorority, founded in 1922 at Butler University. The sisters of Sigma Gamma Rho include Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN of Florida and the late Congresswoman Lindy Boggs; the first African American winner of an Academy Award, Hattie McDaniel; and our esteemed grand basileus, Bonita Herring.

Finally, Iota Phi Theta, founded in 1963 at Morgan State University. Their notables include Congressman BOBBY RUSH; Billy Ocasio, former alderman to Chicago's 26th Ward and current adviser to Governor Pat Quinn; and their honorable grand polaris, Robert Clark.

Whether it has been standing up for women's suffrage, advancing civil rights by dismantling Jim Crow, advancing the science of medicine, or leading in business innovation, the Divine Nine has been there the entire time leading from the front.

The Divine Nine's scope of service is felt far beyond their organizational borders. The work of these fraternities and sororities has helped to make this Nation a better place for all Americans. For this, and many other reasons, I thank the entire Divine Nine for a job well done.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessings of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world. Our fervent prayer, O God, is that people will learn to live together in reconciliation and respect, so that the terrors of war and of dictatorial abuse will be no more.

In a special way, we ask Your blessing upon the people of Ukraine. May peace and civility descend upon that nation as it finds itself in political turmoil.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly as they return from a week in their home districts. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE FORMULA

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, in just a little bit over a month's time, the Nation's physicians will face a 25 percent reduction in payment in the Medicare system. This severely affects access for Medicare patients and is something that could be resolved.

Two weeks ago, for the first time, introduced in the House, H.R. 4015 was a compromise agreement between Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, on a way forward for repealing the sustainable growth rate formula.

It does represent a compromise and is not going to please everyone, but it is a significant achievement and was marked by an editorial piece in The Wall Street Journal on February 19 titled "Fixing the 'Doc Fix.'"

In the Journal's editorial, they note that the Senate Finance, House Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce Committees don't agree on much, but they are doing a service by agreeing to end this charade known as the SGR.

They go on to note that "doctors hate the uncertainty of the SGR." That is an understatement. Every Member of this House has heard from their physicians back home about how much they hate this formula.

They go on to say, "Absent reform, one way or another the money is going